

Renaissance books decoration after the book-printing rise in Bohemia

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In my Bachelor Thesis, I am dealing with the book culture during the Renaissance Era in Bohemia. My review is focused to both the transformation and qualitative development of the book illustration approaches after the book-printing advent, and all this I am evidencing by the most important publications issued since the end of the 15th to the end of the 16th centuries. In my Bachelor Thesis, I firstly focus on the personality of Johannes Gensfleisch, the inventor of book-printing called Gutenberg, and the printing technique. In addition, I deal with the graphic techniques that are used in early press processes. However, my greatest attention here is devoted to the Prague press before 1500, where the greatest printing personalities are mentioned, who deserved the most in view of the development of the book culture. I am describing individual printing houses and their most interesting publications produced with a rich graphical decoration. Individual chapters are devoted in this section to prints of Jonathan of Vysoké Mýto, Severín-Kampa's printing house or to printer Beneda. Then I examine printing houses that developed their activity after the year 1500 and prints reaching higher qualitative values due to their woodprint illustrations published by the wood carved technology. At that time, an extraordinary and diverse works in graphic printers emerged in print houses of Nicholas (Mikuláš) Konáč from Hodiškov, Pavel Severín from Kapí Hora, or in the printing works of Bartholomew Netolický. In particular, I point out prints of Jiří Melantrich of Aventýn and his son-in-law Daniel Adam Veleoslavín, whose production meant a significant shift in the graphic decoration and printing history in respect of the Czech book culture of the 16th century. The following chapters will be devoted to specific graphic print pictograms, symbols and signs, and remind the spectacular and ornamental front pages.